

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic composite comprising:

a ceramic fiber;

a sol gel comprising from about 10 wt% to about [[60]] 25 wt% of solids; and alumina particles;

wherein the sol gel is mixed with said alumina particles to form a mixture including from about 40 wt% to about 70 wt% said sol gel and about 30 wt% to about 60 wt% of said mixture includes said alumina particles;

wherein the mixture of the sol gel and the ~~aluminum~~ alumina particles surround the ceramic fiber.

2. (Previously Presented) The ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein the sol gel is selected from the group consisting of alumina sol, alumina-coated silica sol, silica sol, and any appropriate combination thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The ceramic composite of Claim 2 wherein the ~~solid~~ comprises solids of the sol gel comprise from about 0 wt% to about [[60]] 33 wt% of the silica sol.

4. (Currently Amended) The ceramic composite of Claim 3 wherein the ~~solid~~ comprises solids of the sol gel comprise from about 5 wt% to about [[40]] 10 wt% of the silica sol.

5. (Previously Presented) The ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein the alumina particles have a size of between about  $0.1 \mu\text{m}$  to about  $1.5 \mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Previously Presented) The ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein said mixture further comprises a filler material.

7. (Previously Presented) The ceramic composite of Claim 6 wherein the filler material is a mullite.

8. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The ceramic composite of Claim 1, wherein the ~~solids content of said sol gel includes a~~ ~~solids content of~~ about 20 weight percent.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The ceramic composite of Claim 2, wherein the solids of the sol gel including alumina ~~sol~~ consists of about 10 wt% to about 25wt%.